

# Vista Transit Short Range Transit Plan Study

**February 2014**

Prepared by  
Arizona Department of Transportation

### Introduction

The purpose of this project is to provide a plan for Vista Transit to deal with the transition from a 5311 Transit System to a Section 5307 program and to update the Five Year Plan (Short Range Transit Plan) in the context of this transition. In addition, this study will also research and identify funding sources and regional partnerships that can assist with improving the system.

### Public Meeting

To inform and involve community members of the study, ADOT hosted a public meeting at the Windemere Hotel on Tuesday, February 11, 2014 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Staff present at the meeting included Jennifer Pyne and Andrew Ittigson (URS), Shilpa Panicker, Mike Normand, C.T. Revere and Nicole Patrick (ADOT), Richard Cayer, Perri Fletcher, Scott Dooley and Ryan Kooi (Sierra Vista), Dennis Donovan, and Karen Lamberton (Cochise County). In addition to a presentation, there was an opportunity for Q&A, comments and recommendations on areas for improvement. In total, 26 members of the community were in attendance.

### Newspaper Advertisement

A newspaper advertisement providing the date and location of the public meeting was published in the following newspaper:

- Sierra Vista Herald (January 26 and February 5, 2014)

A copy of the advertisement can be found in Appendix A.

### Presentation and Meeting Materials

A Power Point presentation was given at the meeting, and a comment form was provided to each attendee of the meeting.

The following comments/questions were received during the presentation:

- Make routes 4 and 5 separate routes, they are very hard to understand, also city should try to put route schedules into section 411, city publication
- Why not use smaller buses for efficiency?
- Why expand service when there are never many people on the bus? Never have seen more than 4/5 persons on the buses.
- How come the buses don't stop at the corner, especially the #2?
- We need to get to Social Security in Douglas, would we have a bus go there?
- Many people depend on the bus to get to work. How are the routes going to expand to all days, more hours and more work places so fewer people area walking to and from work?
- What about helping seniors get to bus service?
- What is the cost structure of the buses, that is how much does the operation of the buses come from riders?
- In October local match will be 50% what is it now?
- Should be able to buy transit passes at Transit center with debit/credit card.
- Are you going up in fares from \$ .75 to \$1.00 for seniors?

## Public Meeting One Summary

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- Where does the money come from?
- Does it come from Lotto?
- Will there be more places to buy tickets?
- Will all public transit buses continue to accommodate bikes? Should be a standard for all current and replacement equipment.
- After the study will there be bus stop on Valerie lane? The Residence of Can del Sol celebrated at the beginning of the trial.
- How is the input gotten from the community and the riders?
- I love the opportunity to ride the bus, how can I help? The drivers are great, very helpful, and very polite.

A copy of the comment form can be found in Appendix B of this report.

### Comment Form Summary

The following comments were received and returned via the comment form that was provided at the public meeting. All comments received are included in this summary.

#### What are the most important transit needs in Sierra Vista?

- Better traffic flow
- Less money spent, less debt
- Employees should obey traffic laws
- More accommodating to citizens over 65
- There should be more routes extending more hours all days of the week
- Para transit service to the front door = transit is in direct competition with private sector. Town is too small for mass transit. Reduce size of buses to accommodate more ridership.
- Keep the buses running
- Medical trips-new hospital sites
- Low income/zero vehicle households to shopping and DES services

#### How do you think Vista Transit service is doing now? Are there improvements that you think are important?

- Running almost empty buses
- Blocking traffic
- Breaking traffic laws
- Slow
- Blocking parking lots
- I see a lot of buses; I live in Bisbee and believe that Vista Transit costs more to ride. Bisbee has also had a monthly pass to save money, could visit?
- The buses are always empty not a significant ridership to warrant 32 passenger buses. If you looking @ efficiencies should to reduce gas/fuel expenses (free is never "free").

## Public Meeting One Summary

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- The maps make it appear like no one lives south-west of Buffalo Soldier Trail but it is quite densely populated. Suppose that's out of city limits.
- Very good, the improvements should be made on the street coming down Willcox on bus#2 it is very bumpy and rocky.
- Is doing well, drivers are great! Service is good.
- Was surprised by the shifts in routes, stops and scheduling throughout the day/week. Probably limited funding to gain more consistency is the reason.

### **How often do you use transit and how well does it meet your needs?**

- None
- Nearest stop is 20 min walk, do not ride the bus
- I used Bisbee Transit for two years, mostly to get to and from work. It was usually very reliable but not punctual. Very extreme temperatures are difficult to bear when buses are not on time.
- Don't use public transit for our town; if the day comes, and it will, I will use a taxi.
- I think you could have community meetings in Winterhaven, the PD9 development and the ones along Coronado, individually, to encourage ridership. I don't think those people know how transit works.
- Every day, it meets my needs in some ways, but you are working on the plan study.
- 2 to 5 times a week
- Never use it-live in Bisbee.

### **General comments**

- Lots of money wasted
- Would be cheaper to hire chauffer driven limos for each rider
- Couldn't there be some modified door to door service for persons over 65 and not handicapped? Where it could be door to nearest stop?
- I would like for Vista Transit to have a better system to help all people who want to use and have to use transit, it would be good to have hours that help people to not have to walk or walk so far at night.
- If you cannot get smaller buses and you use size of bus for max occupancy, consider larger bus and smaller buses for other times. As taxpayer it is a waste of money to continue to operate@ 86% loss, taxpayer should not have to continue to fund at that rate of loss.
- Need regular service in Winterhaven and the 2 communities outside the walled gates. Also along Cherokee all the way out to Ramsey Canyon Rd. even though it's outside city limits, need service to the campus of the new hospital. If Castle cook get its 7000 development.
- So you indicate that you are bound to city limits but you also say that regional partnerships are possible. So Hereford and Palominas are not incorporated towns but that seems to be a huge population area. Couldn't there be a "regional" arrangement with that area?
- You have to give the bus drivers credit-they have to deal with the public whether they are wrong, it is a stressful job, they deal with wheelchairs, they need a back support for their back.

## Public Meeting One Summary

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They work hand in hand. They do keep the buses very clean and see it the public keeps to the rules posted.

- I will like to have curb side pickup, I wanted it many times and I am not handicapped, I have to run to the bus stop. Any traveling service to the next towns? One day trips?
- I am looking to move elderly- mid 70s parents to Sierra Vista. Transit routes are part of my consideration for a location for them.
- Kudos for arranging transit service for the event.

## Appendix A

# Please Join Us Sierra Vista Short Range Transit Plan Study Public Open House

The City of Sierra Vista and the Arizona Department of Transportation are conducting the Sierra Vista Short Range Transit Plan Study. This study will result in a new Short Range Transit Plan (S RTP) for the next five years of transit service for the City of Sierra Vista and Vista Transit, the city's transit operator. This plan will address changes or improvements to transit service and operations, and strategies for sustainable funding for transit services. The federal funding program that supports Vista Transit operations will be changing in October 2014, and this study will evaluate changes that are needed to comply with the new program requirements and to best leverage federal funds for local transit services. Your input is needed.

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Join us on **Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2014, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.** at the public open house to learn more about the study and share your thoughts on the Short Range Transit Plan.

**Windemere Hotel**  
2047 S Highway 92  
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635



If you require special assistance in order to participate in the public meeting, please contact [projects@azdot.gov](mailto:projects@azdot.gov) or 855.712.8530. Requests should be made as soon as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

14-012

**ADOT**



FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
855.712.8530  
[azdot.gov/SierraVista](http://azdot.gov/SierraVista)

## Appendix B

### Sierra Vista Short Range Transit Plan Study Windemere Hotel – February 11, 2014 COMMENT FORM

1. What are the most important transit needs in Sierra Vista?

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2. How do you think Vista Transit service is doing now? Are there improvements that you think are important?

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3. How often do you use transit, and how well does it meet your needs?

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General comments:

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Contact information (optional)

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|-------|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| Name  | Address | City  | State | ZIP |
| Phone | Fax     | Email |       |     |

Completed comment forms can be submitted at the completion of the public meeting or sent to the ADOT Outreach Team by February 25, 2014. Please send written comments to Tony Staffaroni 1655 W Jackson St MD 126F Phoenix, AZ 85007; or emailing [projects@azdot.gov](mailto:projects@azdot.gov).

Completion of this comment form is completely voluntary. All comments provided will become part of the study's documentation. Under state law, any identifying information will become part of the public record, and as such, must be released to any individual upon request.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
[azdot.gov/SierraVista](http://azdot.gov/SierraVista)